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1994/04/05

(E21)

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 ACDE-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01
OASY-00 DODE-00 EB-01 HA-09 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00
IO-16 L-01 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9399

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

DEPARTMENT OF STATE	IS/FPC/COR	TRB Date: 1/9/9
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BEIJING 010637		<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to <input type="checkbox"/> S or <input type="checkbox"/> C

FOR EAP/CM AND EAP/PA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, CH

SUBJECT: MFA HAS "NO NEW INFORMATION" ON WEI JINGSHENG

REF: BEIJING 10490

1. (C) SUMMARY. CHARGE CONTACTED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER PRESS REPORTS THAT WEI JINGSHENG WAS BEING INVESTIGATED FOR VIOLATING THE

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CRIMINAL LAW AND REGRET THAT THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAD DECIDED TO TAKE SUCH A STEP, IF TRUE. NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MA ZHENGANG SAID HE HAD NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WEI'S STATUS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) XINHUA NEWS AGENCY REPORTED ON APRIL 5 THAT BEIJING PUBLIC SECURITY OFFICIALS DECIDED TO "INVESTIGATE SUSPECTED NEW CRIMINAL OFFENSES BY WEI JINGSHENG." WEI WAS "BEING INTERROGATED AND PLACED UNDER SURVEILLANCE" BECAUSE HE ALLEGEDLY "VIOLATED THE LAW ON MANY OCCASIONS AND IS SUSPECTED OF COMMITTING NEW CRIMES (WHILE) DEPRIVED OF HIS POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ON PAROLE."

3. (C) CHARGE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO REACH ASSISTANT MINISTER QIN HUASUN AT THE MFA. SINCE QIN WAS

UNAVAILABLE, CHARGE SPOKE WITH MA ZHENGANG, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS. CHARGE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE REPORT ABOUT WEI AND ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF HIS CURRENT STATUS AND WHAT CHARGES, IF ANY, HAD BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST HIM. CHARGE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAD TAKEN THIS STEP, IF

THE REPORT WAS CORRECT, NOTING THAT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, WEI HAD ONLY BEEN EXERCISING HIS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH. CHARGE ALSO NOTED SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S CONCERN ABOUT ALL THE DISSIDENTS DETAINED AROUND THE TIME OF HIS VISIT, PARTICULARLY WEI JINGSHENG. MA REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO NEW INFORMATION.

4. (LOU) WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE:

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE REPORT THAT WEI JINGSHENG IS BEING INTERROGATED BY CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR SUSPECTED NEW CRIMINAL OFFENSES?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT THAT WEI JINGSHENG IS BEING INTERROGATED AND HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER SURVEILLANCE BY THE BEIJING PUBLIC SECURITY DEPARTMENT FOR SUSPECTED CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

THE EMBASSY IN BEIJING HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT MR. WEI'S SITUATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HIS STATUS.

IF THE REPORT IS TRUE, WE REGRET THAT THE CHINESE HAVE TAKEN THIS STEP. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, WEI HAS ONLY MADE USE OF THE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION AS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 19 OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

HALLFORD